

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-309]

Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company (Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station); Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-36, issued to Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company (the licensee), for operation of the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station (Maine Yankee) located in Lincoln County, Maine.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would revise selected portions of Technical Specification (TS) Section 5.0, Administrative Controls, to define the facility staffing and training requirements for a permanently defueled facility.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated August 15, 1997, as supplemented by letters dated September 19 and October 21, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action

By letter dated August 7, 1997 the licensee submitted certifications of permanent cessation of power operations and permanent removal of fuel from the reactor in accordance with 10 CFR 50.82(a)(1) (i) and (ii). Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.82(a)(2), the 10 CFR Part 50 license no longer authorizes operation of the reactor or placement or retention of fuel in the reactor vessel. The proposed amendment would implement administrative changes to reflect the elimination of the TS requirement for the licensee to maintain 10 CFR Part 55 licensed operators. There will be no physical changes to the Maine Yankee facility associated with this proposed amendment.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed amendment to the Maine Yankee TS and concludes that the proposed amendment is an administrative change reflecting the elimination of the TS requirement to maintain 10 CFR Part 55 licensed operators that is consistent with the permanently defueled condition of the plant. There will be no changes to the facility or its operation as a result of the proposed amendment.

The proposed change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other nonradiological environmental impacts.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Maine Yankee facility.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on October 16, 1997 the staff consulted with Mr. Pat Dostie of the State of Maine, Office of Nuclear Safety regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated August 15, 1997, as supplemented by letters dated September 19 and October 21, 1997, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street,

NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Wiscasset Public Library, High Street, P. O. Box 367 Wiscasset, Maine, 04578.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 18th day of November 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Seymour H. Weiss,

Director, Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning Project Directorate, Division of Reactor Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATE: Weeks of November 24, December 1, 8, and 15, 1997.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of November 24

There are no meetings the week of November 24.

Week of December 1—Tentative

There are no meetings the week of December 1.

Week of December 8—Tentative

Thursday, December 11

2:00 p.m.

Briefing on Investigative Matters (Closed—Ex. 5 & 7)

3:00 p.m.

Affirmation Session (PUBLIC MEETING) (if needed)

Friday, December 12,

9:00 a.m.

Meeting with Northeast Nuclear on Millstone (PUBLIC MEETING), (Contact: Bill Travers, 301-415-1200)

Week of December 15—Tentative

Wednesday, December 17

2:00 p.m.

Briefing on Integration and Evaluation of Results from Recent Lessons-Learned Reviews (including 50.59 Process Improvements)

3:30 p.m.

Affirmation Session (PUBLIC MEETING) (if needed)

Thursday, December 18

10:00 a.m.